

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's non-final Office Action dated August 25, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Further, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is timely filed and fully response to the Office Action. By the above amendments, claims 1-8, 15, 61, 65, 69, 73, 77, 82, 84, 89, 91 and 96 have been amended and claims 9, 16-60, 64, 68, 72, 76, 83 and 90 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-15, 61-63, 65-67, 69-71, 73-75, 77-82, 84-89 and 91-96 remain pending. Claims 1-8 are independent. In light of the above amendments and detailed arguments to follow, reconsideration of the currently proposed rejections is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the title, the Applicants have amended the title to be a "METHOD OF MANUFACTURING AN ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEVICE HAVING AN EL LAYER" in order to more clearly describe the invention.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 15, 83, 89 and 96, under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph), as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, the Applicants have amended each of the affected claims to recite "wherein M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ce (cerium), Yb (ytterbium), Sm (samarium), Er (erbium), Y (yttrium), La (lanthanum), Gd (gadolinium), Dy (dysprosium), and Nd (neodymium)" as suggested by the Examiner at paragraph 4. of the Office Action.

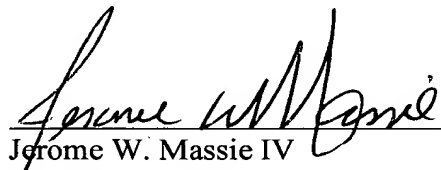
With regard to the rejections of claims 1-8, 11-15, 62, 63, 66, 67, 70, 71, 74, 75, 78-82, 85-89 and 92-96, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), as being obvious in view of the combination of teachings of Lupo et al. ('885) and Kobayashi et al. ('800) alone or additionally combined with the teachings of Yokoyama ('634) or Yamanobe ('602), each of these rejections is believed to have been rendered moot in light of the amendments to claims 1-8 incorporating therein the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 60, 64, 68, 72, 76, 83 and 90, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues

arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Lastly, it is noted that a separate Extension of Time Petition (two months) accompanies this response along with an authorization to charge the requisite extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 (740756-2213). However, should that petition become separated from this Amendment, then this Amendment should be construed as containing such a petition. Likewise, any overage or shortage in the required payment should be applied to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 (740756-2213).

Respectfully submitted,

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